

Claims:

1. Natural lycopene concentrate, characterized in that

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A - it is water-soluble at room temperature;

B - it contains at least 1 mg of lycopene per g of the said concentrate, up to 30% of proteins, up to 30% of polysaccharides, up to 10% of organic acids, and at least 30% of lipid compounds.

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2. Concentrate according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is provided in pulverulent, liquid or gel form.

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3. Concentrate according to Claim 1, characterized in that it may additionally contain vitamin E and/or vitamin C.

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4. Concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it contains between 1 mg and 40 mg of lycopene per g of concentrate.

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5. Concentrate according to Claim 4, characterized in that it preferably contains between 10 and 30 mg of lycopene per g of concentrate.

6. Process for preparing the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 5, in which:

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- a plant structure containing a lipophilic compound is alkalized,

- the alkalized solution is heated to boiling temperature and maintained for 1 to 60 minutes,

- the fibres and various insoluble compounds are isolated by solid-liquid separation,

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- the complex obtained is acidified,

- the carbohydrates and other soluble compounds are isolated by solid-liquid separation.

7. Process according to Claim 6, characterized in that calcium is added to the complex in order to obtain a gel.

5 8. Process according to Claim 6, characterized in that the emulsion is dried by spray-drying or freeze-drying in order to obtain a powder.

10 9. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8 in a cosmetic composition in order to slow the ageing of the skin and/or to combat skin damage which may be caused by exposure to UV, the said composition containing at least $10^{-10}\%$ of lycopene.

15 10. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8 in a composition which can be ingested orally in order to optimize the absorption of lycopene so as to induce photoprotection and thus slow the ageing of the skin, for example in drinks, chocolate,
20 ice creams, cereal preparations, soluble coffee and prepared meals.

11. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8, as a dietary supplement in the form of
25 pills, gelatin capsules or tablets containing doses of 0.001 to 100% of the said concentrate.

12. Use of the concentrate according to one of Claims 1 to 8, orally or topically, in order to avoid
30 any skin condition linked to exposure to UV.

13. Product which can be obtained by the process according to Claims 6 to 8.